

Statement of Goals- Five Year Plan 2010

Pursuant to the Violence against Woman and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, Sec 603 Public Housing Authority Plans Reporting Requirements, Section 5A of the United States Housing Act of 1937 amended (42 U.S.C. 1437c-1)

The Office of Housing and Community Development and the Town of East Hampton have a zero tolerance policy toward domestic violence. Those who commit acts of violence are arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. As it specifically relates to beneficiaries of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program:

No person who is a victim of criminal domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking or members of the victims' immediate families shall lose their Section 8 assistance as a consequence of the abuse of which they are a victim. A victim shall be required to execute a HUD approved form and provide sufficient evidence that the alleged incidents or abuse are bona fide. Evidence such as restraining orders and police reports shall be evidence of same.

It is the policy of the PHA to deny assistance to those persons who engage in acts of criminal domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking against others. It is the position of the PHA that such behavior constitutes a threat against the community even if the violence is directed against one person.

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The Office of Housing and Community Development's staff will if it is brought to their attention or if they suspect domestic violence has occurred assist the victim in reporting the violence to the police and accessing the services of the Retreat (www.theretreatinc.org) or in the alternative notifying the Suffolk County Department of Social Service's Offices of Adult or Child protective services where applicable.

The Town was very instrumental in the construction of the Retreat which is run by a nonprofit corporation. The Town's Office of Human Services and Police Department also provide counseling services designed to assist victims. The Town has a pro-arrest policy on all cases of domestic violence.

The Office of Housing and Community Development also works with certain landlords to develop on site restrictions with regard to perpetrators of domestic violence. Where an order of protection exists certain landlords have agreed to call the Police if the abuser is seen anywhere on the landlord's property.

